

Throughout his career, Judge Fuentes has served with distinction and honor. For over 20 years, he has proven to be an impartial, open-minded, bright, and dedicated public servant at the Municipal, Superior, and Appeals Court levels.

Judge Fuentes's recent appointment to the 3rd U.S. Court of Appeals resonates with historic significance: He is the first Hispanic ever to be appointed to this prestigious court. As a result, the judicial branch is one step closer to reflecting America's rich diversity.

In honoring Judge Julio Fuentes, *Nosotros Magazine* is promoting the most important values in American society today: Hard work, dedication, and compassion. Judge Fuentes embodies these American ideals; and, throughout his career, he has worked tirelessly to provide others with the opportunity to meet the standard of excellence he has set.

Because of community leaders like Judge Fuentes, the Hispanic community is not only experiencing economic empowerment, but also political strength. Today, we prepare for a future that reflects our years of hard work, and our commitment to each other.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge Julio Fuentes for his many contributions to the Hispanic community.

TRIBUTE TO D.E. SUMPTER AND ASSOCIATES

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2001*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to D.E. Sumpter and Associates (DESA) for the contributions they have made to the landscape of the South Carolina business community. This month the company commemorated its 15th anniversary.

DESA, Inc., an African American woman-owned business, has grown to 150 employees from its humble beginnings in 1986. In addition to its headquarters in Columbia, SC, the company now has regional offices in Charleston, SC, Atlanta, GA, and Falls Church, VA. DESA specializes in development education for minority businesses, conference management, technical assistance, construction management, and hospital management.

The State newspaper named DESA's founder, Diane Sumpter, one of the "People to Watch in Business in the Midlands in 2001." She contributes to her community through service on the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties. She has served on the boards of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Sumpter is also a founding member of the Minority Contractors Association for the State of South Carolina. She is a Life Member of the NAACP, and has recently joined the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce.

DESA has worked with numerous small minority and women owned businesses through mentor protégé programs. The company has been awarded SBA's 1990 Advocate of the Year, Midland Minority Supplier Development Council's 1991 Vendor of the Year, SBA's 1992 South Carolina Minority Business Person, and the YWCA Tribute to Women in In-

dustry Award. Most recently, DESA received the 2000 BB&T Trailblazer Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to DESA and its proprietor, my good friend, Ms. Diane Sumpter for the contributions she and her company have made to our State and Nation.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN REHRER

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2001*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate Ms. Susan Rehner as she retires after 21 years of dedicated service to the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of Northwest Indiana. A retirement celebration will be held for her on Tuesday, March 6, 2001 at the Center for the Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

As Executive Director of the VNA for the past 13 years, Susan has been directly responsible for the management and administration of the agency's programs and services. She has been instrumental in leading the VNA through many different changes, including industry upheaval, market influx, new innovative programming and financial viability. Through her diligence the VNA has not only survived through these difficult changes, but it has thrived in the midst of the industry's transition.

Susan's leadership helped to successfully develop the Critical Pathways program. This program is an individualized patient care plan which relies on precise, detail-oriented information. It has revolutionized the industry by allowing each patient to receive the care needed. Susan is extremely proud of the development of this program, and her hard work has helped to ensure its success.

During her years at the VNA, Susan has demonstrated a sincere love for the community in which she lives. In addition to improving the lives of others through her professional career, she has also volunteered her time to champion many causes aimed at bringing comfort to those in need of assistance. She has played an active role in the Healthy Start program, a community-based infant mortality reduction plan employed in many areas of Northwest Indiana and throughout the country. Susan is also involved in the Healthy East Chicago program, designed to mobilize individuals and resources to promote a healthy community.

For all of her conscientious efforts, both professionally and voluntarily, Susan has been recognized by her peers. She has earned numerous state and national awards for excellence in the health care industry. Her dedication to the VNA movement and home health care in Indiana has been extraordinary. She is a true believer in the industry's importance and its ability to improve the lives of those who otherwise would live in discomfort.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Susan Rehner for her 21 years of service to the Visiting Nurse Association, and the last 13 years as the Executive Director. Susan has shown impeccable leadership abilities as well as an undying love for her community. The people of Northwest Indi-

ana will surely miss her enthusiasm, but we thank her for her years of service and wish her happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL ARCTIC WILDERNESS ACT OF 2001

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 28, 2001*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, one of the most magnificent wildlife reserves in America has been targeted for oil and gas development. It is threatened as never before, and will lose its wild, untrammelled character forever if we do not organize to fight this threat. Today, Rep. NANCY JOHNSON and I are introducing the Morris K. Udall Arctic Wilderness Act of 2001, with more than 120 cosponsors, Republican and Democrat, all united in their goal to preserve this precious wilderness in its current pristine, roadless condition for future generations of Americans.

We have a bipartisan legacy to protect, and we take it very seriously. It is a legacy of Republican President Eisenhower, who set aside the core of the Refuge in 1960. It is a legacy of Democratic President Carter, who expanded it in 1980. It is the legacy of Republican Senator Bill Roth and Democratic Representative Bruce Vento and especially Morris Udall, who fought so hard to achieve what we propose today, and twice succeeded in shepherding this wilderness proposal through the House. Now is the time to finish the job they began—now is the time to say "Yes" to setting aside the Coastal Plain as a fully protected unit of the Wilderness Preservation System.

Every summer, the Arctic coastal plain becomes the focus of one of the last great migratory miracles of nature when 130,000 caribou, the Porcupine caribou herd, start their ancient annual trek, first east away from the plain into Canada, then south and west back into interior Alaska, and finally north in a final push over the mountains and down the river valleys back to the coastal plain, their traditional birthing grounds. This herd, migrating thousands of miles each year and yet funneling into a relatively limited area of tundra, contrasts sharply with the non-migratory Central Arctic herd living near the Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

The coastal plain of the Refuge is the biological heart of the Refuge ecosystem and critical to the survival of a one-of-a-kind migratory species. When you drill in the heart, every other part of the biological system suffers.

The oil industry has placed a bull's eye on the heart of the Refuge and says "hold still. This won't hurt. It will only affect a small surface area of your vital organs!"

Nevertheless, the oil industry has placed a bull's eye on the very same piece of land that Congress set aside as critical habitat for the caribou. The industry wants to spread the industrial footprint of Prudhoe Bay into a pristine area. Let's take a look at the industrial footprints that have already been left on the North Slope. Look at Deadhorse and Prudhoe Bay. They are part of a vast Industrial Complex that generates, on average, one toxic spill a day of oil, or chemicals, or industrial waste of some